



STAT

October 20, 1958

Dear Jess and Mrs. Balmer,

Visiting firemen may be a nuisance, but, believe me, they are appreciative. As chairman of the recent delegation which beset your isle, it is my pleasure to say for all concerned that by your official and social graces you may our visit both productive and enjoyable.

As you are surely well aware, your home by the sea is idyllic and is a perfect setting for a charming hostess and a genial host. The fellas thoroughly enjoyed the cocktail party on Thursday night, and comments upon the choice food are being made to Headquarters personnel, each of whom in turn will no doubt get in line for comparable treatment as soon as he can. [redacted] my wife, has listened with dreamy eye and far away look as I described that exotic Monday night with you and your guests at the Royal Hawaiian. I admitted to her that while I didn't dance with the grace of the general, I must get A for effort and more than that for enjoying it. Needless to say, I detected certain envy from my colleagues, but I assured them that age in time brings all things, and this was the advantage I held over them by being elderly.

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My onward trip to Japan turned out, I gather, a success though brief. We saw [redacted] on Monday morning, and after other business, I was gone by Tuesday evening. I would like to have stayed longer.

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We all send our kindest regards and our thanks.

As ever,